

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIASUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1955.

GENERAL. Particulars for the year ended March 1955 subject to slight revision, are shown in the following paragraphs with those for 1954 in parentheses. It will be seen that sheep flocks have increased by 978,891 and cattle herds by 32,872; a total grazing equivalent of approximately 1,200,000 sheep, both sheep and cattle totals being records. The beef cattle number was a record but the dairy cattle number was less than in the years 1948-1950. It is possible that the increases recorded are partly due to an intensive check made this year to ensure that returns were received from all holdings. The principal reason, however, for the increase in the sheep flocks was the record number of lambs marked, besides which there were more imports from and less exports to other States, decreased mortality losses and only slightly heavier slaughterings than in the previous year. For cattle, the number of calves was a record, though the number of dairy calves had been exceeded in 1947 and 1948. Since 1946-47 the number of sheep has increased from 7,959,000 to 12,817,000 and cattle from 424,000 to 524,000. These facts, together with increased acreages of barley for grain from 502,000 to 980,000 and oats from 252,000 to 330,000, are in contrast to the decreased acreage for wheat from 2,519,000 to 1,610,000.

SHEEP. 12,817,135 (11,838,244) an increase of 978,891 on the previous year and an increase of 6,030,597 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946 and 2,446,570 more than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. 3,389,864 (3,156,583) wethers; 163,286 (153,416) rams, 2,592,955 (2,346,075) lambs, 5,886,555 (5,363,303) breeding and 784,475 (818,867) other ewes were recorded.

LAMBING 1954. 5,242,173 (4,965,748) ewes were mated and 4,014,794 (3,446,607) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 76.59 (69.41). The previous record number of lambs marked was 3,805,509 in 1952 and the record percentage was 78.69 in 1917.

LAMBING 1955. 5,788,765 (5,131,192) ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1955 (1954). 4,346,841 (4,038,237) to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,441,924 (1,092,955) to rams of other breeds.

WOOL-CLIP. 13,643,654 (13,066,392) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings, etc. being 139,675,407 (130,968,904) lbs. The total wool production for the State including wool fellmongered and wool on skins exported, would be 154,000,000 (145,509,000) lbs. The total wool production is valued at approximately £41,400,000 (£44,434,000). The average price per lb. for greasy wool at the Adelaide Sales was 65.68 (75.22)d.

CATTLE. All kinds 523,817 (490,945) increase 32,872 on the record of the previous year. Dairying cows 199,275 (192,250) were classified as follows - in milk 109,379 (109,210) dry 60,443 (55,020) and springing heifers 29,453 (28,020). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 17,607 (20,556) dairy calves 43,259 (39,452) dairy bulls 8,780 (8,772) beef cows and heifers 118,929 (109,272) beef calves 61,702 (51,139) beef bulls 5,183 (5,180) and other beef cattle 69,082 (64,324). Total dairying cattle 268,921 (261,030) beef cattle 254,896 (229,915).

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June, 1955 are as follows: Butter 19,500,000 (17,610,137) lbs., cheese 29,300,000 (26,009,705) lbs. and Bacon and Ham 7,200,000 (6,540,142) lbs. The cheese production was a record and the butter the highest for 5 seasons. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 94,000,000 (85,000,000) gallons exceeding the previous record of 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been over 500 gallons.

HORSES. 48,943 (51,807) of which foals were 2,095 (2,704) draught 13,694 (17,854) and other 33,154 (31,249). The number of horses is only about 24% of the number 200,870 in 1936 and is the lowest number since 1859. The maximum number was 283,641 in 1913.

PIGS 85,133 (60,619) of which there were 2,222 (1,797) boars, 12,912 (9,984) breeding sows, all other 69,999 (48,838). The number of pigs showed a substantial increase for the first time for several years and was the highest since 1948. The maximum number was 190,068 in 1940.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 3,217,578 (2,957,618) sheep, 159,651 (153,316) cattle and 18,539 (17,402) horses while inside there were 9,599,557 (8,864,079) sheep, 364,166 (334,919) cattle and 30,404 (34,450) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line except that the percentage of horses outside is increasing. The percentages outside for 1955 were sheep 25.10 (25.02), cattle, 30.48 (31.40), horses 37.88 (33.56).

SLAUGHTERINGS. The approximate slaughterings for year ended June 1955, with actual figures for 1954, are - sheep, 1,327,400 (1,595,175); lambs, 1,437,800 (1,042,067); cattle and calves 226,300 (219,853) and pigs 133,500 (104,302).

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep and marked lambs 539,601 (562,617), cattle and calves 17,042 (14,770), horses 3,115 (2,135) and pigs 6,481 (3,157).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31st 1955 COMPARED WITH MARCH 31st 1954.

	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES	PIGS
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1955
Central	2,767,460	2,577,881	156,537	153,796	13,523	37,481
Lower North	1,925,360	1,778,032	33,922	30,925	5,468	18,342
Upper North	1,067,237	1,012,565	16,571	14,974	3,792	3,173
South Eastern	2,917,946	2,490,962	145,959	124,350	6,269	7,511
Western	2,027,385	1,984,941	16,005	15,028	5,165	9,088
Murray Mallee	1,162,488	1,056,836	26,112	24,983	3,644	9,477
Total Counties	11,867,876	10,901,217	395,106	364,056	37,861	85,072
Outside Counties	949,259	937,027	128,711	126,889	11,082	61
Total State	12,817,135	11,838,244	523,817	490,945	48,943	85,133
Increase	978,891	-198,270	32,872	8,367	-2,864	24,514

The following are the increases for the last 5 years in districts where there has been increased development:- Coonalpyn Downs, Sheep 235,000 to 494,000, Cattle 5,600 to 11,500; Kangaroo Island, Sheep 111,000 to 204,000, Cattle 1,600 to 3,750; County Grey, Sheep 694,000 to 1,058,000, Cattle 71,750 to 93,300; and County Flinders, Sheep 300,000 to 452,000, Cattle 2,600 to 4,350.

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GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.
2nd August, 1955.